trips abroad on 30 occasions during the last five years.

(b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(c) He visited 38 countries during these tours.

(d) He was away from the country for a total number of 150 days after assuming office.

Establishment of Cargo tie up with India and Singapore

1651. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Singapore has shown interest in establishing Cargo tie up with India;

(b) if so, the details of the proposal;

(c) the reaction of Government of India thereon; and

(d) the steps Government propose to take to remove red-tape, if any, in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI M. RAJASEKARA MURTHY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Allotment of Gas Agencies in the Hill Districts of Uttar Pradesh

1652. SHRI RAJ NATH SINGH: SHRIMATI MALTI SHARMA:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is comparatively lesser number of gas agencies in the eighth hill districts of Uttar Pradesh in comparison to other parts, which are similarly situated in the country;

(b) if so, what is the ratio of gas agency vis-a-vis the area and population of the area in Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir and North Eastern States;

(c) whether the areas of Uttar Pradesh hills are heavily discriminated in this regard; and

(d) if so, what steps Government will take to increase the number of gas agencies in the eight hill districts of Uttar Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPTAIN SATISH SHARMA): (a) to (d) From the details given below, it may be seen that people residing in the hill areas of Uttar Pradesh have not been discriminated against those in Himachal Pradesh, J&K, North Eastern States, in